GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4575
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
REDUCTION IN PRICES OF DRUGS FOR THALASSAEMICS
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the drugs for thalassaemics are costly and out of the reach of poor patients;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring down the prices of drugs for thalassaemics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) to (c) Thalassaemia is a disorder characterized by defective synthesis of hemoglobin treated by repeated blood transfusions. Excess of iron produced in the body due to repeated blood transfusions is removed by chelation therapy. The chelators, desferal injection with the infusion pump and other oral chelator deferiprone are being imported and not manufactured in India. Government have extended exemption from Customs duty for import of certain drugs for Thalassaemics. However, the prices of drugs for Thalassaemia are not fixed by the Government. There is no proposal to bring these drugs under the provisions contained inDrugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.